

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Public Meeting on Mill Creek Property Set for Monday, January 7, 2002

The California Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a public hearing to discuss its proposal to acquire approximately 25,500 acres of land in or adjacent to the Mill Creek basin in Del Norte County. The hearing will be held on Monday, January 7, 2002, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Crescent Fire Protection Community Center, 255 West Washington Boulevard in Crescent City. The Department will submit a summary of the public's comments to the California Legislature before seeking final approval to acquire the land.

The Mill Creek property will be one of the most significant new additions to the State Park System. With this acquisition, the entire Mill Creek watershed will be protected within state and national park boundaries, connecting the Pacific Coast with the interior Klamath-Siskiyou ranges in a wide band of diverse, protected natural communities. Its streams provide many miles of excellent spawning and nursery habitat for chinook, chum and coho salmon, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout. Protecting and restoring them may be critical to the recovery of coho salmon from the Northern California and Southern Oregon coasts.

Protecting Mill Creek's forests has been a goal of Save-the-Redwoods League since the early 1930s, when the basin contained extensive forests of virgin redwood and Douglas fir. Although few of the big trees remain today, the forest ecosystem will be restored under California State Parks management.

Under California State Parks management, the public will finally have access to the 25,000 acres of the Mill Creek Property. The public will have an opportunity to help plan the development of its future access ways and recreation facilities within the next few years. In addition to the Mill Creek property, the hearing will also cover an adjacent 546-acre Save-the-Redwoods League property called Rellim Ridge. The Rellim ridge property will be the front door to the Mill Creek Basin park. From its ridgetop trails, visitors will get awesome views of Mill Creek Basin, the eastern mountains, Crescent City, and the ocean. Funding for these acquisitions will come from DPR, Wildlife Conservation Board, Department of Fish and Game, State Coastal Conservancy, and private sources. Save-the-Redwoods

League, a private, non-profit organization, has taken the lead in facilitating the acquisitions.

For more information, please contact Richard Sermon, State Park Superintendent II, at (707) 464-6101.

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